

Message Text

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12
ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186434

BOGOTA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:UN, XG, YD, OVIP

SUBJECT:LATIN AMERICAN VIEWS ON PUERTO RICO

REF: BELGRADE 4859

DEPT SHARES YOUR CONCERN AT STATEMENT BY MINIC TO
EFFECT THAT NUMEROUS CARIBBEAN AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN
COUNTRIES ARE ASSERTING VIEW THAT PUERTO RICANS HAVE
NOT EXERCISED THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. SOME
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CARIBBEAN LEADERS HAVE MADE THE POINT TO USG THAT WHILE

THEY WOULD PREFER INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO, THEY RECOGNIZE THAT SELF-DETERMINATION INCLUDES RIGHT TO CHOOSE COMMONWEALTH, AS THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO HAVE DONE. THEY INFORM US THAT THEY THEREFORE ACCEPT PRESENT STATUS. IT IS, OF COURSE, POSSIBLE THAT THEY FOLLOW A DIFFERENT LINE IN THIRD WORLD FORA.

2. IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT U.S. VIEWS ARE KNOWN AND STRENGTH OF U.S. FEELING UNDERSTOOD, WE ARE CONTINUING EFFORTS WITH PARTICIPANTS IN NAM AND MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE OF 24. WE HAVE RECENTLY HAD DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH AMBASSADORS FROM GUYANA AND TRINIDAD/TOBAGO. IN

ADDITION, EMBASSIES, INCLUDING BUENOS AIRES, HAVE IN RECENT DAYS RECEIVED NEW AIDE MEMOIRE ON PUERTO RICO.

3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS IS NOW ON TRIP TO MEXICO, COLOMBIA, PERU, BRAZIL, AND VENEZUELA, WHERE HE WILL RAISE THE PUERTO RICO QUESTION. KISSINGER

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NNN

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